

Task Group A: Identify practices and models in peer states.		Action item	Priority & Benefit	Done by whom (Council, MDT staff, consultants, others)	Hours	Time to complete	Target completion
1	Interchange Agreements: How other states view “paper barriers” agreements and what, if any, public role has been played with respect to them.	1.1.1		MDT, Russ Hobbs, Terry Whiteside, Railroads including shortlines			
2	Container carriers & providers: Any use of public loan pools, investment funds, or other incentive mechanisms to encourage development by container carriers or providers.	2.3.1					
3	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilities for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3					
4	Haulage rights: Public actions affecting rail access through haulage rights, especially for specialized agricultural producers.	3.2.3		MDT to conduct			
5	State rail authorities: Research and report on State-level organizations that have worked to preserve rail infrastructure and enhance rail service through rail authorities.	3.2.4					
	TOTAL EFFORT (est.)				80 hours *	6-8 weeks	
Sub-Tasks	Identify states & contacts Develop questions & protocols Coordinate with working groups Conduct interviews & gather published materials Prepare & transmit written reports						

* approx. \$6,000 to 12,000

Task Group B: Develop information from Montana rail carriers, container providers, and shipper/producer groups.		Action item	Priority & Benefit	Done by whom (Council, MDT staff, consultants, others)	Hours	Time to complete	Target completion
1	Describe interchange agreements in the state, including development of scenarios, and identifying published rates for certain shipping options. This is of particular interest to shippers of forest and industrial products.	1.1.1		Russ Hobbs, Whiteside, RRs including Shortlines. Whiteside can provide quick report on the form of interchange agreements			
2	Clarify market thresholds of rail carriers and intermodal container providers, needed to renew and expand intermodal rail service.	2.1.1		Intermodal Subcommittee//MDT Support			
		2.1.2		Intermodal Subcommittee//MDT Support			
3	Investigate creative ideas for expanding intermodal services, including consideration of using salvaged intermodal containers; state-ownership of a container fleet; and development on short lines of intermodal facilities; and other avenues idenified.	2.2.1		Intermodal Subcommittee /GOED			
		2.2.2		Intermodal Subcommittee /GOED			
		2.2.3		Intermodal Subcommittee /GOED			
4	Investigate new partnerships and ways to increase and improve access to UP, CP and Montana shortlines.	3.1.1		Shortlines; Buyers and shippers of potential products.			
5	Increase service and improve competitive access to MT shortlines	3.1.2		Ag Subcommittee to ID pulse growers and to work with the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee			
6	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilites for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3		Montana Ag Coalition; Farmers Bureau, MGGA, WIFE, Montana Farm, et al UP, CP			
7	Develop effective coal shipping partnerships with BNSF needed to serve Montana’s expanding coal production.	4.1.1		Coal Subcommittee			
8	Develop new partnerships to encourage new railroad spur lines to serve Montana’s new and expanding coal production.	4.1.2		Governor's Office of Ec Dev and Energy and Promotioin Division of Commerce			
	TOTAL EFFORT (est.)				200 hours *	14 - 20 weeks	
Sub-Tasks	Coordinate with working groups Develop questions & methods for information gathering Identify organizations and contacts Transmit request to interested parties, organizations, groups Follow-up, receive and synthesize findings Conduct further analysis as necessary Prepare & transmit written reports Caucus or conference activities Whiteside or others to be determined						

* approx. \$15,000 to 30,000

Task Group C: Describe and document existing mechanisms, including identification of technical assistance resources targeting effective use of existing tools such as:		Action item	Priority & Benefit	Done by whom (Council, MDT staff, consultants, others)	Hours	Time to complete	Target completion
1	State rail authority: develop information relevant to issues involving a state rail authority Increase and improve competitive access to Montana shortlines;include wheat and grain rate mediation process Rail Industry Agreement (Rail Industry Working Group) process. Interchange agreements enabling rail service for new and expanding markets, particularly for industrial and forest products shippers. Other mechanisms involving Ports, short lines, Board of Investments, et al., as may be identified in prior tasks.	3.2.4		MDT // State Rail Working Group			
2		3.1.2		Dept. of Ag and Wheat and Barley and Ag Coalition			
3		1.1.1		Russ Hobbs // Whiteside//Carla for shortline issues			
4		1.2.1		Hobbs//Whiteside			
5		—		TBD			
	TOTAL EFFORT (est.)				30 hours *	6 - 8 weeks	
Sub-Tasks	Coordinate with working groups Define problems to be solved and identify scenarios Identify critical organizations, rail carriers, etc. & contacts Transmit request for information to interested parties, organizations, groups Follow-up, receive and synthesize findings Prepare & communicate findings Identify obstacles to best use of existing mechanisms						

* approx. \$2,250 to 4,500

Task Group D: Identify and address gaps in the state , including consideration of private mechanisms, public institutions, and public incentives. Options for public policies and institutions should include consideration of economic thresholds and gaps, and estimate fiscal scale of options.		Action item	Priority & Benefit	Done by whom (Council, MDT staff, consultants, others)	Hours	Time to complete	Target completion
1	Intermodal rail carrier service: potential incentive mechanisms to foster improved services across classes of industrial shippers.	2.1.1		Intermodal Subcommittee			
2	Intermodal container availability: potential incentive mechanisms to foster improved services across classes of industrial shippers.	2.1.2		Intermodal Subcommittee			
3	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilities for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3		Ag Subcommittee // input from MDT			
4	Intermodal services focusing on development of incentives to enhance services to specialized agricultural shippers.	3.2.1		Ag Subcommittee /// input from MDT and GOED			
5	Identify interested partners among short line carriers, container providers, and investors to begin development of practices identified in 2.3.1.	2.3.2					
6	Address other gaps identified through prior activities.	—					
	TOTAL EFFORT (est.)				120 hours *	24 - 40 weeks	
Sub-Tasks	Reassess resource gaps in light of foregoing activities Coordinate with working groups Identify organizations and solicit contacts Transmit request to interested parties, organizations, groups Analyze economic gaps / thresholds, and fiscal scale of policy options Follow-up, receive and synthesize findings Prepare & transmit written reports Caucus or conference activities						

* approx. \$9,000 to 18,000

